



MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION

Caring for the Trees and Forests of Mississippi since 1926

Newsletter

Volume I, Issue 3

March 2015

Holiday Schedule:

- ◆ March is Wildfire Prevention Month!

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Photo by Leslie Robertson courtesy National Association of State Foresters



Mark Whitmore,
Cornell University

“When EAB infestations begin in an area it can take years for the first trees to die and in these cases EAB is very difficult to detect.”

Additional information on EAB can be found by clicking the links below:

- Emerald Ash Borer info, click [here](#).
- USFS info, click [here](#).
- USDA Stop the Beetle info, click [here](#).

Emerald Ash Borer Detection: Signs and Symptoms

By New York Invasive Species Information / Cornell University Cooperative Extension Invasive Species Education Program

Early detection of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in newly infested trees can prove very difficult, particularly for the lay property or woodland owner as the trees tend to exhibit few, if any, visible external symptoms of infestation. When EAB infestations begin in an area it can take years for the first trees to die and in these cases EAB is very difficult to detect. The first symptoms to occur are cracks in the bark where the individual EAB have been feeding. As EAB populations build, woodpeckers learn to feed on them and their foraging efforts are easy to detect even from long distances. When trees begin to decline rapidly with further EAB population buildup canopy thinning and epicormic sprouting (water sprouts) become more apparent. D-shaped adult emergence holes are small and hard to detect when there are few, but a reliable sign as populations build.

A clear indication of EAB infestation is the presence of D-shaped holes chewed through the bark on branches or the trunk by adults as they emerge in late-spring. These holes are 1/8 inch (3 mm) in diameter. If the holes are not D-shaped, then they were not caused by EAB (native wood borer emergence holes are round or oval and are generally much larger, 1/4 inch (6

mm) or more). EAB usually starts infesting trees in the mid to upper part of the tree; therefore, in early infestations exit holes can be hard to spot from the ground.

Thin, 2 to 5 inch (5 to 12 cm) long vertical splits through the bark of living trees [again, this symptom is not exclusive to EAB infestation]. In the early stages of an infestation trees will be attacked by only a few EAB in a year. The larvae will kill the bark in the area where they are feeding (about the size of your hand) but the surrounding tissue remains healthy. The following year the tree will grow radially and the dead bark above where the EAB was feeding will split. The split will get larger over the next few years and often the larval gallery can be seen beneath the split.

One of the first easily noticeable signs of infestation is often the presence of abundant bark flaking and uneven holes drilled by woodpeckers as they feed on EAB larvae and pupa. Please note that this sign

is not applicable where woodpeckers are not abundant such as in industrial areas or city centers. Woodpeckers often scrape off the outer flakes of bark in their foraging area creating a "blonde" patch. This blonding is highly visible from a distance, especially when wet. Although bark can be flaked off



Photo by Rebecca Hargrave, Cornell Cooperative Extension

ash trees by any number of influences, you can distinguish woodpecker foraging by the little dark holes where they have penetrated the bark to remove an EAB larva.

Click [here](#) to read about additional EAB signs and symptoms.



Todd Matthews
Urban Forest Coordinator
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“The EF4 tornado that struck the Mississippi communities of Louisville and Tupelo left massive damage in its wake, and residents are still working to restore their neighborhoods.”



To view the Ag & Forestry Museum event calendar click [here](#).

Tree Giveaway Held in Louisville

By Todd Matthews

Louisville, MS – The City of Louisville partnered with the Mississippi Forestry Commission and the National Arbor Day Foundation to offer the Mississippi Tree Recovery Campaign in response to the tornado that hit the city on April 28, 2014.

The giveaway was hosted by the City of Louisville Parks and Recreation Department and the Winston County Master Gardeners at the Louisville Coliseum from 1 p.m. – 6 p.m. on Friday, March 6.

The EF4 tornado that

struck the Mississippi communities of Louisville and Tupelo left massive damage in its wake, and residents are still working to restore their neighborhoods. The shade, aesthetics and other benefits lost from the damage to mature trees will take years to recover.

The Mississippi Community Tree Recovery Campaign plans to distribute new trees in these devastated communities as the recovery process continues.

Will Hill, mayor of Louisville said, “People here have been through so

much and lost so much. We’re glad to work with these agencies to help our citizens in another step of the recovery process.”

As the one year anniversary of this tornado approaches, a diverse mix of new trees will be distributed to homeowners in both Tupelo and Louisville.

The Mississippi Community Tree Recovery Campaign is a joint partnership between the Mississippi Forestry Commission and the Arbor Day Foundation, and is focused on helping residents of storm-affected communities recovery process.

Forestry Days

MS Agriculture and Forestry Museum

Are you ready for March, the beginning of spring, and (hopefully) warmer weather? We certainly are!

Check out our special programming for March - Forestry Days every Thursday in the month of March!

Join us for:

- Story telling & heritage center Paul Bunyan tour
- A forestry themed

tour of the nature trail

- Sawmill demos
- Learning with hands on Forestry props

Reservations recommended, but not required.

Admission prices are as follows:

\$2 school group rate
\$4 children (ages 3-18)
\$5 adults

Dates: March 5, 12, 19, & 26

Time: 9am – Noon

For additional information contact Alya at:
601-432-4500 or
alya@mdac.ms.gov

Click [here](#) to view the event flyer.



Tree Knowledge: Who Am I?

Who Am I?

February:

Slippery Elm

Found on p.37 of
MS Trees Guide

Leaves:

Type: odd-pinnately compound, alternate, deciduous

Size: 7.0" - 15.0" long; leaflets (7-13), 3.0" - 4.0" long

Margin: entire

Apex: pointed or rounded

Base: unequally wedge-shaped

Shape: oblong to obovate

Color: dark green

above; paler below

Surface: lustrous above;

smooth below

Venation: pinnate

Twigs:

Size: stout

Color: light brown to orangish brown

Surface: smooth; many minute raised lenticels; crescent-shaped leaf scars; many bundle scars

Buds:

Size: 0.25" long; laterals smaller, similar

Shape: conical

Color: purplish

Surface: smooth; 2 outer scales

Fruit and Flowers:

Drupe: dry, smooth

Size: 0.25" dia.

Shape: nearly spherical

Color: creamy white

Flower: polygamous; in

long, narrow axillary pubescent panicles near

the ends of the branches, on slender pubescent pedicels (stalks); petals, 5, yellowish green; 0.25" long

Physical Attributes:

Form:

Form: single stem

Size: 25.0' - 30.0', mature

Growth Rate: (no data)

Life Span: (no data)

Tolerances:

Shade: tolerant

Drought: low

Fire: low

Anaerobic: high

Propagation: seed (cold stratification required); bare root; container; cuttings

Other: resprout/coppice potential

Habitat and Ecology:

Site: most abundant on

permanently wet sites (swamps, bogs); occasionally with other bottomland species

Soil Texture: fine - coarse

Soil pH: 5.6 - 6.5

Range: all of the eastern

United States; in

Mississippi, primarily in the southeastern

quarter of the State, and other permanently wet/moist sites

Wildlife Value & Uses:

fruit is not toxic to birds or animals and is consumed by many kinds of wildlife, such as bobwhite, pheasant, grouse, and rabbit, especially in winter, when other food is scarce; moderate food value for large mammals; low food value for small mammals and terrestrial birds; no value as wildlife cover

Timber Value and Uses:

none

Landscaping Info:

POISONOUS All parts, in all seasons if plant sap contacted; symptoms include severe skin redness, itching, swelling, and blisters following direct or indirect contact; toxic principle is Urushiol.

- Click [here](#) for a link to the MS Trees Guide.

Who Am I?



Photo by Jayne

Click [here](#) to view the ready.gov home page.

“Do not attempt to drive through a flooded road. The depth of water is not always obvious. The road bed may be washed out under the water, and you could be stranded or trapped.”



Click [here](#) for more information on the Prescribed Burning Short Course.

Floods

By Ready.gov

Floods are one of the most common hazards in the United States, however not all floods are alike. Some floods develop slowly, while others such as flash floods, can develop in just a few minutes and without visible signs of rain. Additionally, floods can be local, impacting a neighborhood or community, or very large, affecting entire river basins and multiple states.

Flash floods can occur within a few minutes or hours of excessive rainfall, a dam or levee failure, or a sudden release of water held by an ice jam. Flash floods often have a dangerous wall of roaring water carrying rocks, mud and other debris. Overland flooding, the most common type of flooding event typically occurs when waterways such as rivers or streams overflow their banks as a result of rainwater or a possible levee breach and cause flooding in surrounding areas. It can also occur when rainfall or snowmelt

exceeds the capacity of underground pipes, or the capacity of streets and drains designed to carry flood water away from urban areas.

Be aware of flood hazards no matter where you live or work, but especially if you are in low-lying areas, near water, behind a levee or downstream from a dam. Even very small streams, gullies, creeks, culverts, dry streambeds or low-lying ground that appear harmless in dry weather can flood.

The following are important points to remember when driving in flood conditions:

- Six inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars causing loss of control and possible stalling.
- A foot of water will float many vehicles.

- Two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles including sport utility vehicles (SUV's) and pick-ups.
- Do not attempt to drive through a flooded road. The depth of water is not always obvious. The road bed may be washed out under the water, and you could be stranded or trapped.
- Do not drive around a barricade. Barricades are there for your protection. Turn around and go the other way.
- Do not try to take short cuts. They may be blocked. Stick to designated evacuation routes.
- Be especially cautious driving at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers.

Click [here](#) to view the full article.

Prescribed Burning Short Courses 2015

April 14-16th, 2015

Hilton Garden Inn
975 Highway 12 East
Starkville, MS

Cost: \$250

October 6-8th, 2015

Pearl River Community College
Woodall Technology Center

906 Sullivan Drive
Hattiesburg, MS 39401
Cost: \$250

Please contact Jeff Ware (MFC Safety/ Training Director) for more information.

Phone:
662-401-8067

Email:
jware@mfc.state.ms.us



Photo by Anna Kendall

“This is a highly active workshop. Come prepared for field trips, nature walks, and getting in creeks for water studies.”

Teachers Conservation Workshop

By Anna Kendall

Registration is now open!

The Teachers Conservation Workshop, or “TCW”, is a practical, hands-on conservation workshop with emphasis on forests and other natural resources. The latest in conservation is presented in the classroom and in numerous field trips including industries, harvesting operations, management practices, and nature trails. Participants learn by demonstration and practical exercises how conservation practices can be integrated into classroom work and student projects. Instructors include professionals from Mississippi State University, Mississippi Forestry Commission, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, U.S. Forest Service, forest industries, consulting foresters and many other natural resource organizations and companies. Participants will be certified to use teaching materials of the nationally acclaimed environmental education curriculum, Project Learning Tree.

This is a highly active workshop. Come prepared for field trips, nature walks, and getting in creeks for water studies. In addition to the

scheduled activities, participants enjoy networking with other educators. Scheduled activities start early morning and end at night. Participants must attend all scheduled sessions to receive academic credit or CEU's.

Teachers, school administrators, youth educators, undergraduates, and others

may apply. Consideration will be given to teaching duties, subject assignments, the number of times applicant has already attended

TCW, as well as the date applications are submitted. Participants may repeat the workshop every five years.

A registration fee of \$115 is required. This fee includes all meals and lodging (Private rooms are an additional \$100 at the Jones County Junior College workshop), an official TCW shirt, and all course materials. The fee is not refunded for cancellations after June 1st for the South Workshop and June 14th for the North Work-

shop. Class size is limited. Your registration will be confirmed by e-mail. The deadline for applying is one week prior to each workshop.

Workshops will be held:

- **June 7—12, 2015**
Jones County Junior College
Ellisville, MS



Photo by Anna Kendall

- **June 21—26, 2015**
Northeast Mississippi Community College
Booneville, MS

Click [here](#) for a link to the full brochure and registration form.

For more information please contact Anna Kendall with the Mississippi Forestry Association: 601-354-4936, akendall@msforestry.net



“Jimmy Dale worked in Pearl River County as a Ranger from 1992-2005. He will be sadly missed by his former co-workers of the Southeast District.”
-Susan Walker

In Memoriam

Services for Jimmy Dale Bond were held Saturday, February 14, 2015 at 1:00 PM at the Rocky Branch Baptist Church in Sumrall, MS. Burial will follow in Rocky Branch Baptist Church Cemetery. Visitation will be held Saturday, February 14, 2015 from 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM at Rocky Branch Baptist Church in Sumrall. Brother Robert Arinder will officiate the services.

Mr. Bond, 59, died Thursday, February 12, 2015 at Marion General Hospital in Columbia.

He was born Tuesday, December 27, 1955 in Purvis.

He was of the Baptist faith and retired from the State of Mississippi Forestry Commission.

Mr. Bond is predeceased by two Family Members: Father - Pete Bond, Wife - Charlotte Bond,

He is survived by: Mother - Rosie Broom Bond, Sumrall, MS, Brother - Ray Bond, Poplarville, MS, Brother - Carey Bond, Midway Community, MS, Brother - Sammy Bond,

Sumrall, MS, Sister - Rita Thornhill, Nicholson, MS, Sister - Darnell Smith, Kokomo, MS, Sister - Rosa Jean Fritzpatrick, Sumrall, MS, Cousin - James Hartfield, Sumrall, MS,

Hathorn Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Personnel News

- Mark Williams (District Forester, Northwest) welcomed his new grandson, Walker Lane, 4lbs, 2oz.

WELCOME!

- Christopher McKenzie
- Cody Russell
- Deon Hampton
- Christopher Stewart

Moving On

- Victor Long
- Nicholas Hancock
- Andy Redwood

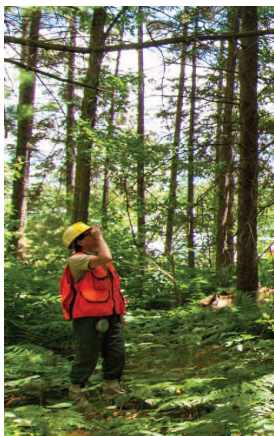


Photo by Leslie Robertson
 courtesy National Association
 of State Foresters

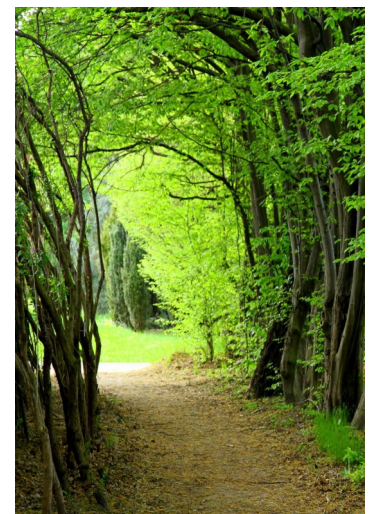




Photo by Jay Boykin

Bill Kitchings
Outreach Forester
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“Nine out of ten wildfires are caused by humans and are completely preventable.”

- Click [here](#) to view wildfire prevention info.
- Click [here](#) for a link to the source article.

March is Wildfire Prevention Month

By Bill Kitchings

The Mississippi Forestry Commission is announcing, by proclamation signed by Governor Bryant, that March is designated Wildfire Prevention Month. March has historically been one of the state's highest wildfire occurrence months because of dry vegetation and high March winds.

Most the time when people think about wildfires they think Western mountainous states or California. Mississippi has its share of wildfires across the state also. Last Fiscal Year (FY) 2013, which runs from July 01, 2012 – June 30, 2013, the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) responded to 1,474 wildfires which burned 17,567 acres of land. These numbers reflect wildfires the MFC responded to and does not take into account the fires Volunteer Fire Departments (VFD) suppressed. If VFD numbers were added to the MFC numbers they could easily double. These wildfires threatened and destroyed more than timberland across the state during FY13. There were 20 homes destroyed, 4 homes damaged, and 1,384 homes that were threatened as a result of these wildfires.

Wildfire causes are broken down into the following categories; incendiary/arson, debris burning, campfires, equipment use, lighting, railroads, smoking, re-ignition, and miscellaneous. The two main causes of wildfires here in Mississippi are incendiary/arson and debris burning. In FY13 the MFC responded to 680 incendiary/

arson fires that burned 9,125 acres and 584 debris burns that people had let escape which had burned 5,678 acres.

The top ten counties in the state for number of wildfires are as follows: 1. – Pearl River/134 fires, 2. – Lamar/97 fires, 3. – Jackson/71 fires, 4. – Harrison/69 fires, 5. – Hancock/62 fires, 6. – Jefferson Davis/50 fires, 7. – Leake/41 fires, 8. – Stone/39 fires, 9. – George/36 fires, 10. – Lincoln/36 fires.

Mississippi has roughly 19.8 million acres of timberland across the state which provides all kinds of outdoor recreation for the citizens of Mississippi and tourist alike.

The Mississippi Forestry Commission is charged by law to suppress any wildfires across the state but it is everybody's responsibility to help protect our forest/timberland and prevent wildfires. Nine out of ten wildfires are caused by humans and are completely preventable.

The Mississippi Forestry Commission asks that you Don't Burn on Windy Days.

Also, become Firewise by following these tips:

- Clear flammable vegetation up to 30 feet away from your house. You can leave

some trees as long as their branches are 10 feet away from other trees.

- Eliminate ladder fuels by mowing tall grass, trimming shrubs, and pruning lower branches as described above.
- Keep the lawn watered and mowed short (3 inches or



Photo by Texas Dept. of Agriculture

less) on all sides of all buildings.

- Clean the roof, gutters, and windowsills of leaves, needles, and other debris.

The Mississippi Forestry Commission wants you to be aware of how you can protect your home from the destructive forces of wildfire.

For more information on the Firewise program and other fire prevention ideas, click [here](#) to visit our web site.





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www.mfc.ms.gov

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on Facebook!

The Mississippi Forestry Commission provides equal employment opportunities and services to all individuals regardless of disability, race, age, religion, color, gender, national origin, or political affiliation.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



March 2015
Newsletter

Our Mission

The Mississippi Forestry Commission is proud of its service to the public and its protection of the state's valuable forest resource. Committed to delivering quality services and assistance to both rural and urban landowners, the Forestry Commission looks forward to the continued privilege of caring for Mississippi's trees and forests. **Serving Mississippi Since 1926.**

Our Mission is to provide active leadership in forest protection, forest management, forest inventory and effective forest information distribution, necessary for Mississippi's sustainable forest-based economy.

